



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

SEP - 9 2005

Clifford G. Day
Supervisor, New Jersey Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
927 North Main Street (Bldg. D1)
Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232

RE: 2005 Revisions to the New Jersey Surface Water Quality Standards

Dear Mr. Day:

I am writing to initiate consultation, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) pending action on the adopted 2005 revisions to the New Jersey Surface Water Quality Standards (NJSWQS). Towards this end, enclosed please find a copy of the adopted 2005 NJSWQS and maps showing the affected streams, brooks and rivers.

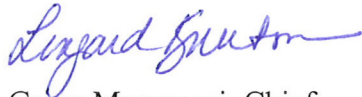
The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) adopted the following amendments on June 20, 2005:

- the upgrade of the antidegradation designation of Shark River Brook and its named and unnamed tributaries to Category One based on "exceptional water supply significance".
- the deletion of the twofold fresh and saline use classifications, FW2-TM/SE1 and FW2-NT/SE1, applicable to portions of the Shark River Brook and Shark River based on the monitoring data available on the levels of salinity; however the trout status use classifications applicable to the freshwater portion of the Shark River Brook remain the same.

Based on EPA's review of the adopted revisions to the 2005 NJSWQS, we have made a preliminary determination that our approval of these revisions is not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species. We understand that your concurrence with this finding would only apply to the above reclassifications and not to other provisions of the state water quality standards. I greatly appreciate receiving any comments you may have on our preliminary determination as soon as possible.

In the interim, should you have any questions, or need additional information, please feel free to have your staff contact Lingard Knutson, Endangered Species Coordinator at (212) 637-3747, or Wayne Jackson at (212) 637-3807.

Sincerely yours,



jm Grace Musumeci, Chief
Environmental Review Section
Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch

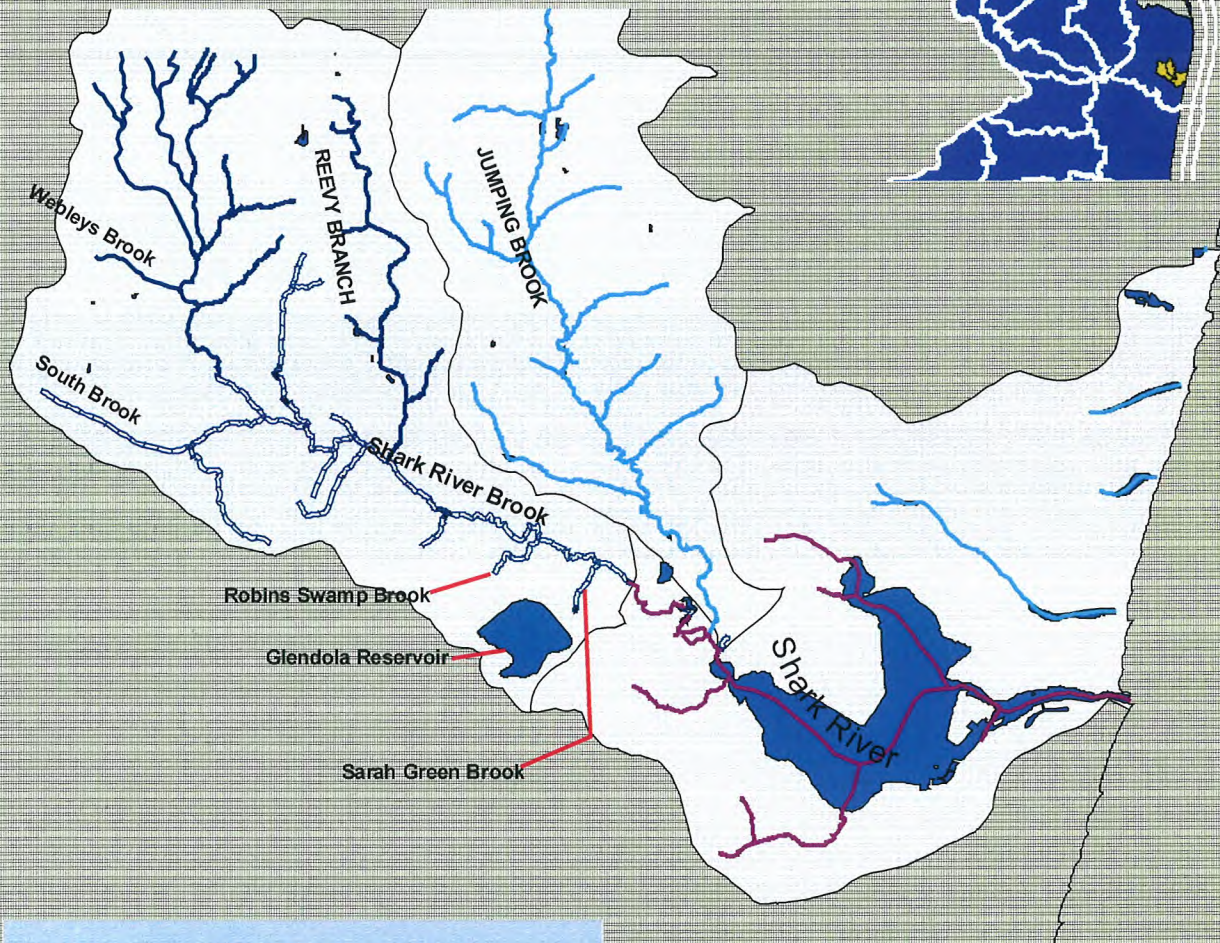
Enclosures



Proposed Category 1 Designation for Shark River Brook

(December 20, 2004)

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Water Monitoring and Standards



Map Legend

Proposed C1 Classifications

-  FW2-NT-C1
-  FW2-TM C1
-  SE1
-  FW2-NT/SE1
-  Lakes
-  Huc14

0.7 0 0.7 1.4 Miles



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